

It is respectfully submitted *Baba* discloses a lens system with two elastic members (1-1), (1-2) with different moduli of elasticity disposed one on top of another in a lateral wall 3, restrained by an aperture plate 4. By applying a voltage on an annular piezoelectric transducer 37 (Figure 9; col.9, lines 44-51) in the housing, the expansion of the piezoelectric transducer along the optical axis *h* in response to the applied voltage gives rise to positive or negative pressure to the elastic members, causing the elastic members to protrude from the aperture or to descent in the aperture, thereby changing the focus of the lens system (Abstract). A sharpness detecting device is used to detect the sharpness of the image form by the lens system due to the change of the focus (Abstract). Thus, *Bada* discloses a lens system wherein mechanical pressure produced by the piezoelectric transducer is used to change the focus of the variable-focus optical system, but not to cause a change in the optical axis *h* of the lens system (see Figures 2, 3a through 7d).

In contrast, the claimed invention applies an electric field on the deformable lens in order to cause a change in the optical axis of the deformable lens. For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4, 9-12 and 16 are distinguishable over the cited *Baba* reference.

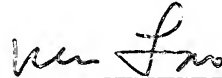
At section 4, the Examiner also cites *Berge et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,369,954 B1, hereafter referred to as *Berge*) in rejecting claims 5-8 and 14-15. The Examiner cites *Berge* for disclosing the deformable lens being a liquid lens.

It is respectfully submitted that *Berge* discloses a method of changing the focus of the liquid lens 11 using an electric field while maintaining the optical axis 0 (see Figures 1 – 6). *Berge* does not disclose or suggest using the electric field to cause a change in the optical axis. Thus, claims 5-8 and 14-15 are also distinguishable over the cited *Berge* reference.

## CONCLUSION

Claims 1-16 are distinguishable over the cited *Baba* and *Berge* references. Early allowance of claims 1-16 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Kenneth Q. Lao  
Attorney for the Applicant  
Registration No. 40,061

WARE, FRESSOLA, VAN DER SLUYS  
& ADOLPHSON LLP  
Bradford Green, Building Five  
755 Main Street, P.O. Box 224  
Monroe, CT 06468  
Telephone: (203) 261-1234  
Facsimile: (203) 261-5676  
USPTO Customer No. 004955